

CLASSIFICATION: Secret  
 DOCUMENT NUMBER: KEL-2228  
 DATE: 12 March 1947  
 SUBJECT: Arthur PIER & BEN-ZVI  
 SOURCE: [redacted]  
 M.I. 5  
 REFERENCES: See paragraph 1

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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3B2E  
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
 DATE 2006

1. References: JZX-80 4; LVK-283 (not sent to [redacted] IX-12238,  
 XX-12643.

2. We have now had the following additional information on the  
 above named subject:

"We have received a further report about this man from the Intelligence  
 Organisation in Austria.

"They state that they have approached by U.S.P.A. to ascertain whether  
 they have any objection to this man being accredited as a correspondent  
 for the Overseas News Agency, New York.

"In a C.I.C. inter-departmental document the following information is  
 recorded:

"PIER Arthur.  
 Birth: 15 Feb. 2.; Vienna IX, Sechschimmelgasse 22.  
 Father: PIERNIKARZ F. than, business man.  
 Mother: PIERNIKARZ (ITZHEITER) Bortha  
 Religion: Jewish  
 Citizenship: Austria  
 Martial Status: Married

"PIER lived with his parents in Vienna until 1938. In 1927 he entered  
 elementary school, and in 1931 he entered the Jewish Realgymnasium, Vienna  
 XX, but he left in 1948 after the Anschluss, one year before his graduation.

"In the course of an interview he stated that he left Austria in 1938  
 in order to immigrate to Palestine. He accepted a job as secretary to an  
 agricultural settlement in Haifa, Palestine, which position he retained  
 until August 1944.

"He then was asked by the Jewish Agency in Haifa, Palestine, to act  
 as interrogator of refugees coming from European countries. He remained in  
 this job until the cessation of hostilities.

"In September 1945 PIER was appointed as correspondent for various  
 Palestine newspapers and news agencies, including PAL-COR in London, England,  
 and HATZOFHP in Tel Aviv, Palestine.

"In November 1945 he returned to Vienna via Italy and was an accredited  
 news-correspondent of the British Public Relations Office in Vienna, which  
 position he holds at present.

"In October 1946, PIER submitted an application to be accredited as  
 correspondent for the Overseas News Agency in Austria.

"In interview with Mr. Josef SILBER, Chief of the American Joint  
 Distribution Committee, who has known PIER since January 1946, substantiated  
 PIER's statements. It appears that PIER is an active Palestine Zionist, and  
 intends to make his permanent residence there. Mr. SILBER as well as Mr.  
 DANIELS of the American Joint Distribution Committee, stated definitely that  
 he has no Communist leanings.

"Mr. David MANN of USACA Public Safety, when questioned about PIER's  
 background, stated that he has known him for approximately five months. He  
 recommended him as an intelligent and capable person.

"PIER can best be described as a Palestine Zionist, who is interested in the restitution of Palestine to his people. Although technically still an Austria, he identifies himself as a Jewish nationalist and expects to become a citizen of Palestine shortly.

"When originating queries as to the Intelligence Organisation's objections, C.I.C. stated that PIER was known to be head of an organisation known as BRICHA (stated by them to mean 'flight').

"He also was said to receive assistance from:

a) GAULAN, Dr. Judah, Head of Jewish Agency in Lins.

b) WAAD-HA-ALIJAH, council HQ in Lins for illegal immigration of Polish Jews.

"It is suggested that WAAD-HA-ALIJAH is identical with VAAD HAHAZAALA and VAAD ALIJAH."